

From: Jerry Spencer Mings
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 7:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust

From what I've read, the judgment against MS is more of a reward than a punishment.

My first home computer was handbuilt 6800 from a kit (SwTP) and used an ASR33 teletype with punched paper tape as the sole offline storage. Eventually the system was maxed out at 32 kilobytes of pseudo-static RAM. I remember vacationing in Silicon Valley and lunching with the author of Tiny BASIC. Bill Gates became a hero for releasing 4K (and later 8K) BASIC.

Later the original IBM PC was released under a disingenuous marketing plan claiming the 8-bit 8088 microprocessor as being a 16-bit system and hijacking the acronym PC. The home computing community was in large part outraged, but business lived and died by the aphorism "Nobody ever got fired for buying IBM." At the time there were several 6800 based home computer systems running UNIX variant operating systems that failed against the tidal wave of EYE-BEE-EM.

Then, somehow, the IBM PC design opened up to independent manufacturers and the hardware market exploded once they discovered to their amazement that the public wanted clones and not compatibles.

Now we reach the point where I gave in and bought a compatible because:

- 1) It's what they were using at work.
- 2) There was a LOT of free or cheap software out there.

Then -

I had to upgrade to DOS 3.1 because it was more reliable and fixed the bugs from the previous release.

I had to upgrade to DOS 3.2 because it was more reliable and fixed the bugs from the previous release.

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I had to upgrade to Windows 3.2 because it was more reliable and fixed the bugs from the previous release.

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I had to upgrade to Windows 95 because it was intergrated and more reliable and fixed the bugs from the previous release and the cheap printers required it and it came with my new faster computer because the new programs were untollerably slow.

I had to upgrade to Windows 98 because it was more reliable and fixed the bugs from the previous release and the cheap scanners required it.

IBM was no friend - I bought OS/2 and OS/2 warp 3.

Apple was no friend with their proprietary (overpriced) hardware and software
- I had an Apple IIe and the joke was "After you had to buy the entire library of documentation (each manual referred you to another manual) for another \$50 you got Steve Job's home number."

I don't have a reasonable solution (I favor breaking MS into a thousand pieces and refunding all Windows [another hijacked name] upgrade fees), but suggest you contact Richard M. Stallman at <http://www.fsf.org> as his is the loudest sanest voice in the wilderness.

Richard Balding